

He served his country because he loved it. He served his country because he thought it really mattered. He thought a world in which the Soviets dominated or the Nazis dominated would be a horrible world. A world in which America led would be a remarkably better world.

Not a perfect world, because people aren't perfect. If you believe in God, you know how inadequate you are. But a world in which a decent country, of decent people, of all races and all nationalities could pursue freedom and safety, and could create prosperity like no one has ever seen. Forty years ago, he convinced me at the battlefield at Verdun, when I was fifteen, that this is all real.

For 40 years, with the help of the Georgia Federation of the Republican Woman, and the Young Republicans, and thousands of volunteers and lots of donors, and the people of Georgia, I was allowed to study, to learn. I was allowed to run for office and lose twice. I as allowed to run a third time and win. Ultimately, with your help, we created a majority.

I have not talked about any issues for five months. I have not really laid out what I feel from the heart, but I couldn't come here today in the middle of the agony that each of us must feel for the children and the families of Littleton.

I couldn't come here today, and let's be honest, in the tradition of Lincoln, we should feel as much agony for the innocent Serbs that are being killed as we feel for the Albanians. We are all humans. Our Creator endows us all.

And we have to be a great enough nation that our hearts go out to everybody in a conflict. And that we want to help everybody. We want to find a way to lead a world without violence because our moral dedication, not our purity, let me be clear to my liberal friends none of us are pure. That is not what this is about. Purity of purpose doesn't mean purity of execution, because we are humans.

This has been the greatest opportunity for simple, everyday human beings to get up in the morning, to love their families, to pursue happiness, to work for a living, to create a better future than has ever been created. And we have to save it domestically or we will have many more Littletons. And we have to learn to lead in the world or we will have many more Kosovos.

Sadly, not happily, because I tried for six years to work with this administration. Sadly, the Clinton-Gore Administration has proven both in their reaction to Littleton and in their utter total mismanagement in Kosovo, that liberalism once again has failed, and we have to be the standard barriers.

Just as we were with Eisenhower, just as we were in 1968 with Nixon, who ended the Vietnam War that Johnson started, just as we were with Ronald Reagan who created the cause of freedom worldwide and defeated the Soviet Empire, just as we were with George Bush, who had the nerve and the discipline to let the military run a winning campaign, despite every liberal Democratic elected leader in the Congress.

We have to have the nerve over the next eighteen months to tell the truth to the American people. To let the news media scream at us, and to count on the fact that, in the end, this is a great country, filled with good people, and they know better than the talking heads on Sunday morning.

Thank you, good luck and God Bless you, [applause]

INTRODUCTION OF THE SENIOR PRESCRIPTION DRUG ASSISTANCE EXPANSION DEMONSTRATION ACT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Expansion Demonstration Act of 1999. In doing so, I am offering legislation which serves as a viable first step towards addressing the serious issue of rising prescription drug costs for our Nation's seniors.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide assistance to those states which have undertaken the step to offer supplemental assistance for low income seniors to help defray the rising cost of prescription medications.

This legislation will create a demonstration project that will provide block grant funding to permit three states with an existing prescription assistance program for low income seniors to raise their income eligibility by \$5,000 for both single individuals and married couples. Should the program be successful, it can later be expanded to other states that have created such prescription assistance programs.

This legislation recognizes that the participating states have widely varying requirements with regards to the administration of their prescription-assistance plans. Consequently, it will not alter these requirements in any way, except that to qualify for the federal funds, each state must raise its income eligibility for both the single and married categories.

Mr. Speaker, the last five years have seen both a rapid increase in the amount of revolutionary drugs available on the market, as well as in the price of those drugs. The availability of these new drugs has been a wonderful result of annual advances in medical technology and knowledge. Regrettably, these advances also come with a price, one that is increasingly difficult for many senior citizens to pay.

A number of our colleagues in this House, as well as in the other body, have offered various bills designed to address the rising cost of prescription medication for senior citizens. These bills have tended to use either price controls, or the extension of free or heavily subsidized prescriptions as a new federal entitlement, as a solution to this problem.

The nation's experience with price controls during prior administrations has shown that they are not a viable tool. Moreover, while the new entitlement proposed by the current administration sounds appealing, neither the President, nor anyone in the minority has offered a viable way to pay for it. In our current budget environment, an entitlement proposal without a clear funding source is nothing more than a hollow promise.

Furthermore, price controls for prescription drugs run the very real risk of stifling future development in medical advances. While none of the major drug companies has any reason to plead poverty, the implementation of a federal system of mandatory price controls would certainly serve as a major disincentive on the future research and development of new prescription medications. In this sense, medical success does come with a price.

On the other hand, prices should not be so high that the target audience for which the drugs were developed cannot afford to purchase those drugs. Regrettably, this has increasingly been the case over the past several years for seniors living on fixed incomes.

The Federal Government has a vital role to play in fostering innovation in medicine, so that today's seniors can receive the benefits of tomorrow's new medical technology. The last few years have seen wonderful advances in drugs to treat osteoporosis, arthritis, and Alzheimer's disease.

At the same time, a new federally run bureaucracy is not the answer to address the needs of our senior citizens being able to afford these new drugs as they become available. Such a bureaucracy would take medical decisions on which drugs to prescribe away from doctors, dampen the overall level of medical research on new drugs, and force seniors to accept a one-size-fits-all federal program.

This legislation would avoid those problems. It sets out to expand on ideas that the states have shown do work in practice. The Epic program in New York is highly successful, and legislators of both parties in Albany have consistently voted to expand the program each year. However, these State officials understand that New York cannot afford on its own to cover every senior that it should.

By partnering with New York and other States with prescription assistance programs, the Federal Government will be able to both provide aid to thousands of seniors on fixed incomes with their monthly prescription drug bills, while leaving prescribing authority where it belongs, with the doctors. In essence, everyone wins.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this worthwhile legislation, which helps needy seniors by providing the States with resources to expand programs which have already been proven to work.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL MATHIEU AND FAMILY OF MIAMI, FLORIDA

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Paul Mathieu and the Mathieu Family of Miami, Florida, for the outstanding example of faith in action and excellence which they embody in their daily lives.

Paul Mathieu is a Jackson High School graduate who will be attending Harvard University in the fall, accomplishing his parents' dream of seeing all of their children attend college. He is the ninth child of Phinellie and Teucheler Mathieu, who came to Miami from Haiti in 1974. Their incredible faith, courage, and ethos of hard work have enabled this remarkable Haitian immigrant family who fled political repression, social brutality, and physical danger in their homeland to seek, and ultimately, to find, a better future for their children in their new home. Each of their children—Techeline, Firma, Fednie, Samuel, Emmanuel, Marc, Luckson, Marthe, and Paul—has contributed significantly to the family tradition of success and of active citizenship in America.